

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:EDSMITH:VSS
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R 061444Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195372

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, OEXC (ECEVIT, BULENT)

SUBJECT: ECEVIT VISIT: INVITATION TO TURKEY OF SY AGENTS

REF: (A) ANKARA 5839, (B) ISTANBUL 2916

1. ECEVIT BEFORE LEAVING U.S. ON BEHALF OF RPP INVITED THREE SY AGENTS, FRED LECKER, BERNARD JOHNSON AND GEORGE MITCHELL, TO COME TO TURKEY AS EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR THEIR COURAGE IN SAVING HIS LIFE. HE IMPLIED THAT WRITTEN INVITATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. ECEVIT IS AWARE THAT US REGULATIONS WOULD PROBABLY PRECLUDE ACCEPTANCE. ECEVIT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THESE AGENTS MIGHT BE ASSIGNED DURING ANY SUBSEQUENT HIGH LEVEL US OFFICIAL VISITS TO TURKEY.

2. FYI. ECEVIT TOLD DEPARTMENT CONTROL OFFICER THAT HE FELT HIS PARTY RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNION SHOULD
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EXTEND INVITATION. HE ALSO WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE OTHER

TWO AGENTS HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN GENEL-IS INVITATION, ESPECIALLY MITCHELL WHO, BY SHIELDING ECEVIT AT TIME OF ATTEMPT, WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN RECIPIENT OF DISCHARGED BULLET. ECEVIT ALSO MENTIONED VIEW OF TURKLER RE CIA INVOLVEMENT (REF B) BUT SEEMED CAREFUL NOT TO COMMENT. END FYI.

3. DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS DO NOT PERMIT ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH INVITATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY SO INFORMING GENEL-IS AND RPP HEADQUARTERS ALONG WITH GRATITUDE FOR GENEROUS GESTURE. HABIB

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